

Message Text

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46

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FM AMCONSUL STUTTGART

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2809

INFO USMISSION USBERLIN

AMEMBASSY BONN

AMCONSUL BREMEN

AMCONSUL DUSSELDORF

AMCONSUL FRANKFURT

AMCONSUL HAMBURG

AMCONSUL MUNICH

C O N F I D E N T I A L STUTTGART 257

E. O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR PINT GW

SUBJ: LOCAL PERSPECTIVES ON POLAND AGREEMENT

1. SUMMARY: EX-BUNDESKANZLER KIESINGER HAS INDICATED THAT HE VOTED AGAINST POLAND AGREEMENT IN THE BUNDESTAG, FEELING THAT POLAND MUST COME UP WITH SOMETHING MORE. HE CITED IN THIS CONNECTION EXAMPLE OF BULGANIN'S "WORD OF HONOR" TO ADENAUER IN 1955 RE RETURN OF GERMAN POWS. MEANWHILE, PRESS REPORT FROM BONN, CITING MOERSCH (FDP), POINTS FINGER AT FILBINGER (MINISTER PRESIDENT BADEN-WUERTTEMBERG) AS AN INTRANSIGENT ROADBLOCK IN BUNDESRAT WHO MUST BE CIRCUMVENTED TO OBTAIN A COMPROMISE AGREEMENT BETWEEN GOVERNMENT AND OPPOSITION. END SUMMARY.

2. AT A FEBRUAR 20 DINNER AT THE RESIDENCE THE NIGHT OF HIS RETURN FROM THE BUNDESTAG DEBATE ON THE POLAND AGREEMENT, FORMER BUNDESKANZLER KIESINGER PROVIDED PERSONAL INSIGHT INTO GOVERNMENT-OPPOSITION CONTROVERSY. IN CONFIRMING HIS VOTE
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AGAINST THE AGREEMENT, HE EXPRESSED THE FEELING THAT POLAND COULD IMPROVE THE SITUATION BY INDICATING AN INTENTION TO

PERMIT REMAINING ETHNIC GERMANS TO EMIGRATE. NOTING THAT HIS VIEWS WERE SOMEWHERE BETWEEN EXTREMES OF THOSE HELD BY CARSTENS AND WEIZSAEGER, KIESINGER RECALLED HOW ADAMANT ADENAUER HAD REMAINED IN MOSCOW IN 1955 RE RETURN OF GERMAN POWS AND SUBSEQUENT "WORD OF HONOR" FROM BULGANIN RE THEIR RETURN, A PROMISE WHICH BROKE THE DEADLOCK. THIS KIESINGER VIEW APPROACHES IN MODERATION THOSE EXPRESSED TO US RECENTLY BY YOUNGER, LIBERAL CDU REPRESENTATIVES IN BADEN-WUERTTEMBERG, INCLUDING JUNGE UNION CHAIRMAN WISSMANN, LANDTAG FAKTION LEADER SPAETH AND OBERBUERGERMEISTER ROMME).

3. MEANWHILE, HOWEVER, FEBRUARY 21 "STUTTGARTER ZEITUNG" REPORT BY BONN CORRESPONDENT GUNTER HOFMANN CLAIMS IT IS NOT STRAUSS (WHO REMAINS IN THE BACKGROUND WITH THE PROSPECT OF COPING WITH LOCKHEED "STARFIGHTER" ALLEGATIONS) BUT RATHER BADEN-WUERTTEMBERG MINISTER PRESIDENT FILBINGER, WHO IS ACTUALLY THE IMPLACABLE ROADBLOCK STANDING IN THE WAY OF A COMPROMISE UNDERSTANDING DESIRED BY KEY COALITION AND OPPOSITION ELEMENTS. ACCORDING TO THIS REPORT, FILBINGER, IN REPRESENTING THE BADEN-WUERTTEMBERG POSITION, REJECTS ANY UNILATERAL DECLARATION BY POLAND AND INSISTS ON "ABSOLUTE ASSURANCES" OF A TYPE WHICH CANNOT BE SATISFIED THROUGH DISCUSSIONS AMONG KOHL, SCHMIDT AND GENSCHER. THE REPORT CITES BUNDESTAG DEPUTY KARL MOERSCH (BADEN-WUERTTEMBERG/FDP) AS SAYING "HE (FILBINGER), IS THE REAL EXECUTOR OF THE SANTHOFEN TESTAMENTS, THE 'EVIL SPIRIT' IN THE DISPUTE", AND CONCLUDES THAT ANY CONCEIVABLE WAY TO A SOLUTION MUST TAKE A WIDE CURVE AROUND HIM.

4. COMMENT: WE HAVE NO DIRECT CONFIRMATION OF THIS REPORTED INTRANSIGENCE ON THE PART OF FILBINGER IN THE BUNDESRAT; MOREOVER, ALLOWANCE MUST BE MADE FOR POSSIBLY PARTISAN NATURE OF THE CHARGE LEVELED BY MOERSCH, WHO IS AN ACTIVE PARTICIPANT IN THE BADEN-WUERTTEMBERG ELECTORAL CAMPAIGN AND A FOREIGN MINISTRY OFFICIAL. HOWEVER, FILBINGER'S ALLEGED POSTURE IS NOT REPEAT NOT AT VARIANCE WITH HIS CONSISTENT CRITICISM OF "OSTPOLITIK" AND HIS ASSERTION AT THE OPENING OF THE BADEN-WUERTTEMBERG ELECTION CAMPAIGN THAT VOTERS HAVE A "CLEAR CHOICE BETWEEN DEMOCARCY AND SOCIALISM." JENKINS
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